Excuse this scrawling letter, and write if you do not come soon
We should have our hickories to steal this time. But it
has been very warm
and it would not pay
enough to go out
and get the Lizzie, but
if you are coming
soon you can have it
Bedarra and
come before I go.

Baraboo Aug 1. 1868

My dear friend:

You know it is not against my principles to write letters on sunday. my conscience does not reprove me for it. though some think it almost unpardonable. and perhaps it is wrong. but it is sunday today and I am writing to you. I received your little short note a few days ago I was almost vexed that you should write me such a short kind of a cold note as that was. I suppose you felt so though. - that's why you wrote it. Well. I was very glad to get it anyway. hope you'll write me another three times as long. next time. Dave is sitting here by me. he says I'm writing a coarse hand for

Yours sincerely friend
Belle.

I don't believe I shall go if he don't. So I guess he will certainly go. You will go Eph shall you not? If we all go along together, we'll have a nice time. Mr Halsted will go home when we go I suppose. Dave will write you all about your girls here. So I think I won't say much about them. Only wouldn't you like to go to another sleigh ride with "Miss Plummer" up to Mrs Peck's and leave "Bet" at home? Of course you would. 'Cause the seat wouldn't hold "Three"!! —— I should like to write you just what I want to in this letter, but I guess I'll wait until you get home then I'll say it. I hope no one but yourself has ever seen the first letter I wrote you. I felt so bad when I wrote it. I was lonesome, and missed you so much. I didn't know what to do with myself. But you know

me. I know I am. but such mean pens. I have had sixteen or less since I commenced - so my writing will ask to be excused if you please. - Elbridge was here yesterday - he said you wished him to say to "Aunt Martha" that your health was first rate - But you see we don't believe a word of it. for I suppose you remember that you wrote to some of us that you were not very well. Mary says she expects you home about next saturday night. I hope her prediction will prove true. At any rate when you do come. I know I shall be glad to see you. Don't wait until I go home before you come. I suppose I shall not go until fall. I have not heard from home since I wrote you last. so of course Em has not got home. Whether John will go or not I can't tell. Sometimes he thinks it will not be possible. but

I don't believe I shall go if he don't. So I guess he will certainly go. You will go Eph shall you not? If we all go along together, we'll have a nice time. Mr Halsted will go home when we go I suppose. Dave will write you all about your girls here. So I think I won't say much about them. Only wouldn't you like to go to another sleigh ride with "Miss Plumm" up to Mrs Peck's and leave "Bet" at home? Of course you would. 'cause the seat wouldn't hold "Three"!! —— I should like to write you just what I want to in this letter, but I guess I'll wait until you get home then I'll say it. I hope no one but yourself has ever seen the first letter I wrote you. I felt so bad when I wrote it. I was lonesome, and missed you so much. I didn't know what to do with myself. But you know

every grief in time passes away. — If mine didn't I should be an unhappy mortal. I received a package of letters from a "certain friend" the other day. You can guess who they were from. I was quite happy to receive them. but when some one gets a package from me. they will be the wiser for it." But I must stop and get ready for meeting. Mr Ketchin preaches here. today. and I must go and hear him. Thursday — You see I've not finished my letter yet. Since Sunday, Mary, Dave & I have been down to Mr Wells'. Got caught in a shower. & staid all night. We had a nice visit; but got sick by it almost. Today I feel like a fool. (natural feeling) I have also received a letter from home this week. It made me almost homesick I have answered, and told them I should go home in about six weeks, and I must for aught — I see. —— Dave is no better. he cannot do scarcely a chore. I don't think he will be any better this summer. He thinks I shan't be homesick any after you get back. So hurry along, for I don't want to be homesick. When is Jim coming down? Give him my respects if you please. but don't you show him this letter. His Martha is all married off; what will he say at that?

Excuse this looking letter, and write if you do not come soon
We should have had our pictures to send this time. but it
has been very warm
and I have not felt
well enough to go out
and get it taken. but
if you are coming
soon you can have it
taken. Besure and
come before I go.
Your sincere friend
Bet.